

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-14 (Cancelled).

15 (Currently Amended). A method for selecting a subject in an inflammatory state that is the result of an autoimmune disease, which subject is suitable for anti-inflammatory therapeutic treatment by means of an A₃ adenosine receptor (A₃AR) agonist, the method comprising:

determining the level of expression of A₃AR in a sample of white blood cells (WBCs) of the subject; and

selecting the subject as being suitable to receive said anti-inflammatory therapeutic treatment if said level is above a predefined threshold that is above the level of A₃AR expression in WBCs of a healthy subject.

16 (Original). The method of Claim 15, wherein said sample of WBC is taken from a subject before receiving an anti-inflammatory treatment.

17 (Cancelled).

18 (Previously Presented). The method according to claim ~~17~~, 15, wherein the autoimmune disease is rheumatoid arthritis (RA).

19 (Currently Amended). The method of Claim 15, for selecting a subject in an inflammatory state that is the result of an autoimmune disease, which subject is suitable for anti-inflammatory therapeutic treatment by means of an anti-inflammatory amount of N⁶-(3-iodobenzyl)-adenosine-5'-N-methyluronamide (IB-MECA), wherein said selecting step comprises selecting the subject as being suitable to receive said anti-inflammatory therapeutic treatment by means of an anti-inflammatory amount of IB-MECA if the level determined in said determining step is above a predefined threshold that is above the level of A₃AR expression in WBCs of a healthy subject.

20 (Currently Amended). The method of Claim 15, for selecting a subject in an inflammatory state that is the result of an autoimmune disease, which subject is a candidate for receiving anti-inflammatory therapeutic treatment under clinical studies of the effectiveness of an A₃AR, wherein said selecting step comprises selecting the subject as being a candidate for said clinical studies if the level determined in said determining step is above a predefined threshold that is above the level of A₃AR expression in WBCs of a healthy subject.

21 (Previously Presented). The method of claim 15, wherein said predefined threshold is a multiple of the level of A₃AR expression in the WBCs of a healthy subject.

22 (Withdrawn/Currently Amended). A method for determining the probability that a selected subject in an inflammatory state that is the result of an autoimmune disease, will respond to anti-inflammatory therapeutic treatment by means of an A₃ adenosine receptor (A₃AR) agonist, the method comprising:

determining the level of expression of A₃AR in a sample of white blood cells (WBCs) of the subject; and

determining that there is a greater probability that the subject will respond to said anti-inflammatory therapeutic treatment if said level is above a predefined threshold that is above the level of A₃AR expression in WBCs of a healthy subject.

23 (Withdrawn). The method of Claim 22, wherein said sample of WBC is taken from a subject before receiving an anti-inflammatory treatment.

24 (Cancelled).

25 (Withdrawn/Currently Amended). The method according to claim ~~24~~, 22, wherein the autoimmune disease is rheumatoid arthritis (RA).

26 (Withdrawn/Currently Amended). The method of Claim 22, for determining the probability that a selected subject in an inflammatory state that is the result of an autoimmune disease, will respond to anti-inflammatory therapeutic treatment by means of N⁶-(3-iodobenzyl)-adenosine-5'-N-methyluronamide (IB-MECA), wherein said second determining step comprises determining that there is a greater probability that the subject will respond to said treatment by means of an anti-inflammatory amount of IB-MECA if the level determined in said first determining step is above a predefined threshold that is above the level of A₃AR expression in WBCs of a healthy subject.

27 (Withdrawn/Currently Amended). The method of Claim ~~15~~, 22, for determining the probability that said subject is a candidate for receiving anti-inflammatory therapeutic treatment under clinical studies, wherein said determining step comprises determining that there is a greater probability that the subject is a candidate for receiving said anti-inflammatory therapeutic treatment under clinical studies if said level is above a predefined threshold that is above the level of A₃AR expression in WBCs of a healthy subject.

28 (Withdrawn). The method of claim 22, wherein said predefined threshold is a multiple of the level of A₃AR expression in the WBCs of a healthy subject.